

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00707 292101Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

----- 079838

R 291930Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8116

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T NASSAU 0707

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR BF US UK

SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND BAHAMIAN DEFENSE FORCE

REF: NASSAU 2124, NASSAU 0482

1. RADM W. R. FLANAGAN, USN, COMANTDEFCOM AND COMNAVFORCARIB, ACCCOMPANIED BY NLO, PAID COURTESY CALL ON BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, NASSAU, MR. PETER MENNELL, ON APRIL 27, 1976.

2. MENNELL QUICKLY TURNED CONVERSATION TO BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS AND STATED THAT UK VIEWED AUTEC AS ESSENTIAL TO THEIR INTERESTS. HE ALSO ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS STRONG DISAPPOINTMENT THAT U.S. HAD NOT COME UP WITH AN ADDITIONAL CASH GIFT OF AT LEAST DOLS 10 MILLION WHICH HE FELT WOULD HAVE "CINCHED THE THING IN SHORT ORDER." MENNELL THEN ATTEMPTED TO ELICIT A STATEMENT FROM RADM FLANAGAN THAT USN ALSO VIEWED AUTEC AS VITAL. RADM FLANAGAN RECOGNIZED THE PLOY, HOWEVER, AND DEFTLY TALKED AROUND THE ISSUE WITH GENERALITIES.

3. MENNELL THEN SAID HE HAD HEARD, NOT FROM U.S. SOURCES, THAT U.S. HAD INCREASED ITS OFFER OVER THAT WHICH WAS DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON U.S./UK MEETING LAST OCTOBER. NLO INFORMED HICOMER THAT IF THIS WAS SO, NLO HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NASSAU 00707 292101Z

RM MENNELL ALSO STATED THAT HE INTENDED TO DO "ALL IN HIS

POWER" TO SEE NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED BY JUNE 30, BECAUSE, DUE TO DECLINE OF POUND, UK OFFER WAS NOW WORTH ABOUT HALF OF WHAT IT WAS ORIGINALLY WORTH IN PURCHASING POWER AND THAT IF WE DID NOT HURRY, GCOB WOULD BE LUCKY TO WIND UP WITH A ROWBOAT AND OAR LOCKS FOR THEIR DEFENSE FORCE. IN ADDITION, HE WAS DUE FOR HOME LEAVE IN JULY.

5. MENNELL CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT VOSPER REPRESENTATIVES WERE IN NASSAU TO CONCLUDE BASE PLANS FOR CORAL HARBOR. ACCORDING TO HIM, GCOB WAS EAGER TO SIGN CONTRACT FOR NEW BOATS EVEN WITHOUT QUID MONEY IN HAND, BUT VOSPER WAS RELUCTANT TO PROCEED WITHOUT A DOWNPAYMENT OF APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION DOLLARS. ACCORDING TO MENNELL, IT WILL TAKE ABOUT 13 MONTHS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND DELIVERY OF PATROL BOATS.

TAYLOR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NASSAU00707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760163-0790
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976048/aaaaafxh.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 NASSAU 2124, 76 NASSAU 482
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND BAHAMIAN DEFENSE FORCE
TAGS: MARR, MASS, ETEL, BF, US, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006